

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

Claims 12 through 16, 18, 24 through 26, and 28 through 31 have been canceled. Claims 5 and 27 have been previously canceled. Claims 17 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 11, 17, 19 through 23, and 32 remain in the application.

Claims 1 through 4, 6 through 11, and 32 have been allowed.

Claims 18 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 18 has been canceled. Claim 21 has been amended and rewritten in independent form to include the necessary limitations of the base claim and any supporting intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is allowable, which allowance is solicited.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12 THROUGH 14 AND 16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12 through 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lichy (U.S. Patent No. 5,482,104). Claims 12 through 14 and 16 have been canceled and the rejection as to these claims is now moot.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lichy '104. Claim 15 has been canceled and the rejection as to this claim is now moot.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 24 THROUGH 31 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 24 through 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lichy '104 in view of Indoe (U.S. Patent No. 5,747,738). Claims 24 through 31 have been canceled and the rejection as to these claims is now moot.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 17, 19, 20, 22, AND 23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lichy '104 and further in view of Indoe '738. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

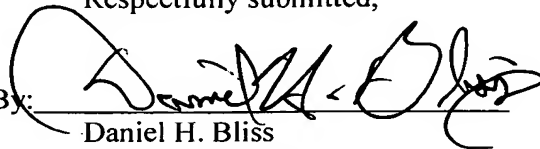
Claim 17 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18, which has been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that claims 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23 are allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the final rejection. It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

Respectfully submitted,

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